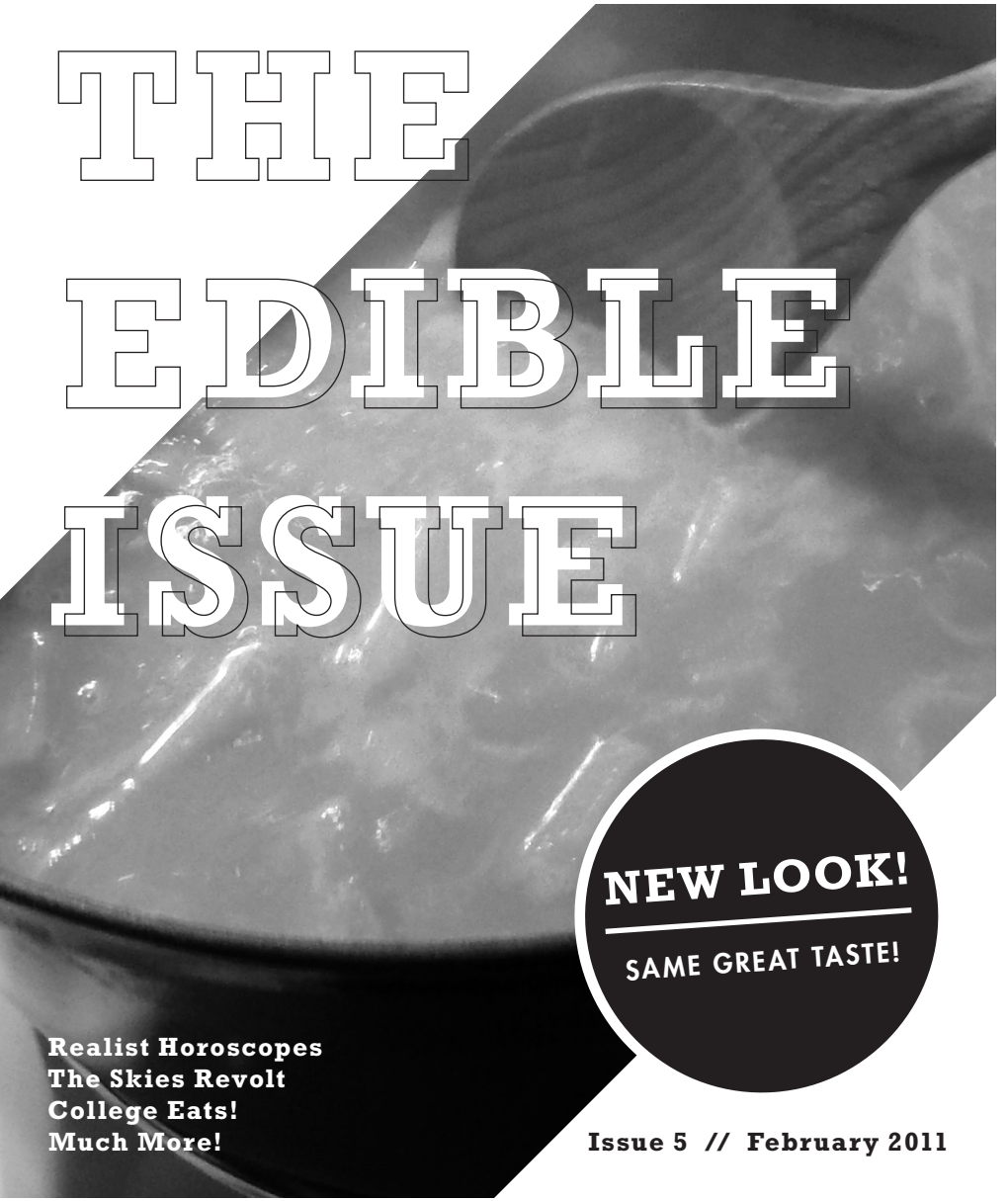
cohesion

Grand Valley's 1st Alternative Newspaper



THE EDIBLE ISSUE

NEW LOOK!

SAME GREAT TASTE!

Realist Horoscopes
The Skies Revolt
College Eats!
Much More!

Issue 5 // February 2011

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THE EDIBLE ISSUE
ISSUE 5 // FEBRUARY 2011

Cohesion is a wholly democratic publication to promote creativity on the Grand Valley Campus.

Want to promote your student organization? Want to write an article for us? Have an opinion piece? Want to respond to an article you read? Email us at *CohesionGV@gmail.com*

COHESION WARNING:
Cohesion is not certified by the FDA or any other body of authority. In fact, we're not entirely sure paper is good for your health, but if you've been constipated and need the fiber, by all means go ahead. The toner in this issue has been proven to cause cancer in California, just add ketchup, that should help. We also promise this issue wasn't printed on blotter paper. We ate that ourselves.

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DEAR COHESION

So, there's this guy who keeps looking at me in my Lib 350 class. I mean staring. It's creepy, and I keep telling him (telepathically) to stop, but his brain is clearly not as developed as mine (typical of most males). I think he works for you guys. Could you tell him to stop! I'm not into writers, for the same reason I'm not into middle-schoolers: all they do is bitch and moan about themselves, talking about their struggle in relation to the world (except you call it something pretentious like "the human condition"). Just tell him to buzz off so I don't have to sit somewhere else. I have a great view of the hot prof.

You know who I mean.

F.U. (From Untitled)

Dear Beautiful Angel,

Do you know the back of your head reminds me of the Mona Lisa. Not as some creepy, Da Vinci, transgender, reflection-of-myself fetish: you're just a work of art to me. And I got you're telepathic messages, you just weren't receiving mine. You should really wear your hair down more often. I admit: I love the smell of Pantene. And it's not my fault I fall in love with the back of women's heads: some people are just wired that way. I would kick an old lady for you. I would eat a live squirrel for you. I would steal a book from the public library for you. But if you must move, that's okay (I think the professor is hot, too).

REALIST HOROSCOPES

(with installment of recent changes to Zodiac signs)

Reed Bramble

CAPRICORN *(Jan. 20 - Feb. 16):*
Today, as you get off the bus to your downtown class, a homeless man will approach you and ask if you would be able to spare a dollar for food. I suggest you make him earn his money, perhaps by doing a little jig, or by telling the best joke he knows, or through a reenactment of a "street-friendly" adaptation of Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Whatever you fancy, really. We all know it's going towards booze anyway, so you might as well make him fight for his right to party.

AQUARIUS *(Feb. 17 - March 11):*
Today, when a professor asks you what the word "amnesia" means, you will have completely forgotten. Don't worry, it's only slightly ironic.

PISCES *(March 12 - Apr. 18):*
On this day, you will obtain an inspiration to purchase a Super Nintendo System as well as an antique-style record player, because having vintage equipment that is destined to break within 1-2 weeks is totally the "in" thing right now.

ARIES *(Apr. 19 - May 13):*
Achoo! Ugh, excuse me. Sorry if I got you a little bit, I'm not a believer in sneezing into my elbow. Germs are meant to be free like all the other wonderful disease-causing creatures that inhabit this earth. Go green!

TAURUS *(May 14 - June 21):*
Your hopes of continuing your New Year's Diet will be tragically destroyed when you "accidentally" grab multiple servings worth of the chocolate chip cookie sundae at Fresh. I sincerely hope the obvious deliciousness of your hearty meal outweighs the journey it will take from your stomach to the under-regions of your buttocks.

GEMINI *(June 22 - July 20):*
That patch of ice that has been chilling (no pun intended...horoscopes aren't meant to be funny) outside of your front door still hasn't moved, yet you will continue the daily ritual of leaving your apartment and breaking your coccyx on the pavement. Maybe one day you'll remember how to walk properly.

CANCER *(July 21- Aug. 10):*
Today, you will not be going to see the motivational speaker on campus because you feel that you don't need any motivation. All those C's and D's are simply a result of your rare learning disability that they still haven't quite been able to diagnose yet. Where did you say that party was tonight? I think we both could use a break.

LEO *(Aug. 11- Sept. 16):*
I'm warning you. Do not eat the brownies that your roommate made for you. It's a trick. But don't throw them away, because your roommate will be pissed. Simply refuse them politely. Unless brownies are your thing, baby.

VIRGO *(Sept. 17 - Oct. 30):*
Today, Laker Nation will once again offer incentives to attend a GVSU basketball game and your apartment complex will give you another phone call asking you to re-sign your lease at outrageously expensive rates. Neither of which will you actually do.

LIBRA *(Oct. 31 - Nov. 23):*
Count to three, then duck. You'll thank me later.

SCORPIO *(Nov. 24 - Nov. 30):*
This evening, your boss will call you by the wrong name again. You are probably better off just accepting it as your new name, though, because she'll probably write you up for correcting someone of higher authority than yourself if you try to say something. You know her.

OPHIUCHUS *(Nov. 30- Dec. 17):*
If you think you are even a little bit special for being a member of the new Zodiac sign, then I'm sorry to tell you that everyone you love will die within the year. If only you didn't take your new way of life so seriously. Wait, you are switching back to Sagittarius? Oh, so the new changes don't really apply to you. I forgot that you guys are special.

SAGITTARIUS *(Dec. 17 - Jan. 20):*
In addition to your Christmas Thank You cards, you will also feel the need to send hate mail in a fit of anger to any person relevant to your life that did not get you anything. Fair is fair.

SATIRE

Dihydrogen Monoxide Linked To Most Tragedies

Albert Arnold MBS

Recent activist movements have made dihydrogen monoxide the subject of much recent enviromental debate. Berkley research has proven that dihydrogen monoxide has been found present in over 80% of cancerous tumors, it has also been found to play a part in droughts.

"Though dixhydrogen monoxide has only recently been linked to a variety of diseases, it is suspected that it is highly carcinogeous." Says Ron Bingham, vice president of DHMO.org. It is a major contaminant in sewage, and a major player in global warming.

Acid rain? DHMO causes that too, in fact, it's baffling the number of controversies that the chemical is connected with. The use of DHMO by farmers in the U.S. and internationally is increasingly prevalent, and neither the U.S. or any other government has enacted legislation against it's spread.

For More Info, or to see how you can get involved, visit www.DHMO.org

Gun Vending Machine

Black Lung

New laws have recently been passed allowing for the public to have easier access to semi-automatic weapons. According to a representative from Texas who claims "Guns are too hard to get. We need easily available firearms to protect us...you know, from other people with guns."

Gun vending machines are a viable option for those who don't have the will or time to purchase their weapons from a store. They can be easily accessed by people of all ages, there's even brail translations for some of the machines, allowing the blind to pack heat with the rest of us.

"What we need is more guns. More bullets, more ways to kill people," stated Davis Hunters, a senator from Arkansas. "We're trying to protect people, it should be clear to those hippy bastards that guns don't kill people, people do." His words are up for debate but his enthusiasm for guns cannot be.

Have the new laws taken the second amendment too far? Many would say so. But when you can buy an AK with your poptarts, what's not to like?

Hole-ly Matter
Ranger Rick

Yesterday a student disappeared suddenly. Her current whereabouts are unknown, however recent disappearances worldwide are causing every conspiracy theorist to come crawling out of the woodwork.

Some believe it was the draconian authorities, others believe it was aliens and UFOs, others believe the individuals all have some common experience with a large intelligence agency; however, seeing as children were even taken, it is unlikely.

Another theory targets CERN, the large international research firm on the border between Switzerland and France. Their recent invention, the LHC, a particle collider that stretches across international borders, may be the cause of these disappearances.

When the LHC was first fired, some physicists predicted that it may in fact open a black hole, though they promised that the chance of this was exactly 1 in one googol (a googol is 1x10^100th, or a one followed by one hundred zeros), though it seems that their predictions were incorrect.

Early experiments were botched by a younger scientist who arrogantly thought he could operate the LHC at full power: he tore a hole in the space-time continuum, and now micro blacks holes—or wormholes of some type—are suddenly eating entire spheres of space at random intervals and locations.

"We're investigating the possibilities of closing the rift. However, at this time we have no leads at this time toward a process that would successfully close it," admits Dr. Pherbenstein, a professor at Berlin University and part time researcher at CERN.

CERN has released a press statement stating thus: "Our investigation has not shown that these matter implosions are the direct result of our research, though we will continue to investigate the cause of these phenomena for the safety of the public."

Meanwhile, the story continues to implode.

White House Faces Black

Little Sister

DISCLAIMER: *Despite the racial implications of the title, no such implications were intended by the author. Therefore, she apologizes ahead of time for any misconception of slander: it's the horrible truth.*

In the darkness of the real estate crisis over the past few years, America has turned to the White House as a beacon of light. However, a new report shows that this structural citadel has faced a 25% plunge in value over the past few years.

With recent deconstruction projects already underway as part of George W. Bush's lame duck decrees, FOX news analyst Joe Vanist remarked that, "As the face of the house changes, so will its value."

In a number of backhanded remarks, Vanist attributed the failure of the nation to the Head of the State saying things such as, "From back country to black country, both heads cost the House $40 million," and "Clearly God doesn't bless America."

Shortly thereafter, Vanist died after choking on steak he was eating alone and the White House temporarily increased in value.

However, as the Federal Reserve prepares to react to possible foreclosure of our nation's Capital, Cohesion's exclusive intelligence reveals that the board of governors is already conceiving plans for a new structure in Washington D.C. In the case that The White House slips into the financial black, blueprints are already underway for a building that appears to be a hostel for the homeless.

This new housing market, of sorts, will allow families who have faced foreclosure in the recent crisis to find solace in temporary or extended apartments. Offering credit-based pay with low interest rates, these tenements will reflect the goulash of citizens victimized by poor real estate deals. This new deal will also include a separate wing for The President as well as several secret service members to stay at reduced payment options.

President Obama refuses to comment on the pending offer.

2012 Bunker Necessities

The Myians knew it and so do we, the world's ending and we need to be prepared. Here's our list of bunker necessities so you can have a comfortable apocalypse.

Canned water
McDonalds french fries
Sillybands
Elliptical machine (Coatrack)
Al Gore
Diary of Ann Frank
Season One of Skins (Yeah we watched it, it's cool)
Y2K Memorabilia
Life sized cutouts of Angelina Jolie.
An elliptical machine you'll never use
Moleskine notebooks to write personal memoir in called 'I told you so'
Katana (in case of zombies)
Ouija board for talking to your dead relatives
A rubber chicken
Blow up doll (Dolly Parton)
Cricket Paddle
A Spork (titanium)
An African Bushman, in full wargear with an opium pipe
Gerbil Generator
Tattoo Gun, Ink, Needles, and an Autoclave

Have a satire piece you would like to see in our next issue? Send it to us! CohesionGV@gmail.com

FOOD

EDImology: A Word You Can Eat
Jason Michalek

From the farming fields of Eastern Europe, I would like to share with you a word from my heritage that not only pervades my mother's stovetop, but also feeds a conglomeration of mouths by serving as a synonym for the word 'conglomerate.' That word is 'goulash."

Goulash (n.)
(1) a stew of beef or veal and vegetables, with paprika and other seasoning
(2) a heterogeneous mixture; hodgepodge; jumble
(Dictionary.com)

It's also something to do with the card game Bridge, but who cares. (Sorry, grandma). The point is that this word is not only delicious on the stove, it's nutritious in practice. Why, if this Hungarian word makes your mouth water from flavor, just think of what it could do to your professors! Deriving from the term for 'herdsman's meat,' 'goulash' is a pastoral connection to the land that fills both stomach and lungs as it describes itself in Hungary tongue. So in short answers, graffiti, and zingy home cooking, use 'goulash' in your weeks to come to spice up your life!

Cheap and Easy College Eats!

Paolina Barker

Butternut Squash Soup

Difficulty rating: *Senior*

Try this warm winter soup to warm up your weekend!

1 Medium Onion-chopped
1 Package Pre-Cubed Butternut Squash (Check the produce aisle next to the salad mix)
4 Tablespoons Olive Oil
4 Cups Vegetable Broth (I prefer the taste of vegetable broth, but chicken would work too)
Salt
Pepper
Fresh Grated Nutmeg

In a large pot on medium heat, sauté the onion in the oil until soft. Add the squash and the broth and simmer until the squash is tender, or can easily be stabbed with a fork. Turn off the heat. With a slotted spoon, transfer the squash and onion a little at a time into a blender or food processor. Blend each addition until smooth. This shouldn't take to long unless you have a crappy blender like I do. Transfer the puree back to the broth and stir to combine. Add salt, pepper, and nutmeg to taste. Do not abuse the nutmeg! A little goes a long way, so taste the soup as you season it. Every time some abuses the nutmeg, Julia Child rolls over in her grave. Serve up your soup with a delicious Mushroom and Roasted Red Pepper Panini, which will be published in our next issue!

Fairy Toast

Difficulty Rating: *Freshman*

Fairy toast is very popular in Australia, but I didn't know that until I googled it the other day. I used to eat this as a kid mostly because it made me feel like a magical fairy. Don't judge till you make it yourself.

1 Slice White Bread (Must be white, this isn't a time to go healthy)
Softened Butter
Rainbow Sprinkles ("jimmies" work best)

Pour out a handful of sprinkles onto a plate. Spread a thick layer of butter of the slice of bread. Place the bread, butter-side-down, on top of the sprinkles and coat evenly. You could eat it this way if you are impatient, or pop it in the microwave for about 10-30 seconds to melt the sprinkles. Eat and feel the magic.

COHESION SITS DOWN WITH DAVE FROM THE SKIES REVOLT!

Every once in a while, a band composes music so edible your ears hunger for more. This week, the featured (Grand Rapids local) band, **The Skies Revolt**, *is one such example. We had the opportunity to sit down with Dave (guitarist, vocalist, and keyboardist) and his dog, Thor (German impurist), last week to talk about their aural art.*

Alright, so they're not sitting down, but that's Dave up there on the left, and our own Andrew Wilt asking the tough questions.

Cohesion: Tell me a little about *RevoltForFree.com*

Dave: It's a website where people can download our music for free. You can pay money to have it if you want to. Basically, anyone who wants it can have it. We thought about bringing other bands into it, but it hasn't happened yet.

C: So, what is your stance on illegal downloading? Should people have to pay for music these days?

D: I don't have a problem with it. I don't do it myself. Part of the reason we put up the website *(RevoltForFree.com)* is because I found out that we were getting thousands of downloads by torrents anyway. So, at least we can kind of control it. We have decided to embrace it... you know, rather than fight against it.

C: Plastic Revolution is the name of your most recent album. What were some inspirations for this album in the titles and themes you've incorporated into the music?

D: Umm that album is a lot about the downfall of the music scene locally. A lot of people got selfish. It is a backlash against what is going on locally. We were also trying to point out a lot of things we didn't like in politics in general, but I would say it is a backlash against selfish bratty people in the music scene. Grand Rapids had this huge music scene and then people got selfish and starting talking about each other all the time and then it just split up into a lot of little scenes. It's a loss of solidarity.

C: The last track on the record is called The Transitive Deficiency (Again). This is a piano version of the hit song called The Transitive Deficiency on Is Alive and Well. Why did you rerecord the song?

D: Honestly, it's because the recording studio had a piano that Jerry Lee Lewis played on and I wanted to record something on it.

C: Are you working on new material for an upcoming album? Can you give us a name or some information about the songs?

D: We don't have a name but we have about, I want to say, four or five songs close to being ready. We are going to record some of them in February; start working on demoing it out. It's really fast considering we just put out one (Plastic Revolution) in June.
C: What are some of your favorite bands right now?
D: I've been listening to Arcade Fire a lot, Passion Pit, Bloc Party, Mew, Peter Bjorn and John. I haven't been listening to anything heavy lately.
C: Do you have a crazy fan story or something about a tour date you would like to recount (or forget)?
D: (laughs) We had a crazy tour date where we stayed in a meth-house on accident. That was pretty crazy. I just remember this kid going into a back room with his mom and her boyfriend and then he came out with a spear in his hand. So I got up and left and slept in the van. That's probably the craziest. I just remember this kid... he seemed rather... off.

The Skies Revolt kicks off their five week tour on Wednesday, March 30 at Mulligans in Grand Rapids, MI!

Website:
revoltforfree.com
Facebook:
facebook.com/theskiesrevolt
Myspace:
myspace.com/theskiesrevolt

Local CD of the Month!

Bangups

Check out their self-titled EP! With hot songs like Sunburt Love and Ten Dollars

Website:
http://thebangups.com/
Myspace:
http://www.myspace.com/bangups
Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/bangups
Twitter:
http://twitter.com/bangups

The Mighty Bear

http://themightybear.com/

The Mighty Bear is a small alliance of independent bands and musicians from different genres working together towards a greater good to spread each others music. We are currently in the beginning stages and will have more information soon. Until then here are links to the bands and musicians involved.

REMEDY

FEBRUARY ARTICLES

Vinyl Confessions: Rise of the LP
Reed Bramble

After reporting record low numbers in compact disc sales and a stall in sales from digital downloads, Rolling Stone Magazine also reported a surprising finding in their latest issue: vinyl was the fastest-growing music format in 2010, selling more copies (2.8 million) than in 1991 when they began to track vinyl sales. Why is this the case, and what does this mean for music enthusiasts at Grand Valley State University and the Grand Rapids area?

Grand Rapids native Steven Edwards offered some insight into the rise in popularity of LP's. "The sound on LP's is generally known to be superior [when compared to other formats]," said Edwards. "The high's and low's are greater, and the sound is significantly brighter." He also described how the artwork that accompanies a vinyl LP is a greater experience than with a CD album insert or looking at the artwork digitally.

GVSU Sophomores Andi Wilt and Aaron Schultz shared this same enthusiasm. "It's like reading a actual book rather than reading something on a computer screen," said Wilt. "With a book, it's more of an aesthetic experience. Vinyl is much more of an experience than simply pressing play on your iPod." Schultz made the comparison of listening to vinyl records to filming with traditional film. "There is something more to it, and it seems more real. The depth of sound it gives music is unmatchable through a digital format, and the technology behind LP's is fascinating."

Eastown resident Robby Holsclaw attributed the rise in sales not only to the musical appeal of LP's, but the experience associated with buying a record. "When you go and purchase a record from a locally owned music store, such as Vertigo Music, you can physically go through the vinyl section and possibly find other titles that you did not realize were available," said Holsclaw. He further described how developing friendships with employees and owners can lead to updates on what LP's are coming in soon. "Purchasing records from small businesses like this not only benefits the listener, but also the local economy." Vertigo Music is located at 129 Division Avenue in downtown Grand Rapids.

In terms of the future of the music industry and vinyl's impact on retail, some say it is too early to predict where the industry will go from here. "I am not sure if buyers who are less familiar with the LP format realize the care needed to keep the vinyl sounding good," said Edwards. "I wouldn't be surprised if many turn back to something like iTunes for ease and potential expense."

Is the recent boom in vinyl sales simply a short-term fad, or is the music industry redefining itself? Money will be the deciding factor, as is often the case.

Vapid Volunteer

Jason Michalek
(Previously published in At Magazine)

Volunteerism exists everywhere. From people forced to volunteer for a class to the average hardened criminal, reasons for participation are vast. At some point in your life (between the Army recruiter and the Salvation Army bell ringer), you've probably been asked to volunteer for a cause or heard about people who have. These volunteer opportunities could range from sewing clothes for amputees to serving food at a benefit dinner or even helping set-up for a concert. But if you thought volunteering was a bad idea, here is a top ten list of why people volunteer that might change your mind:

10. Somebody else made you. Whether your parents drag you to work at a benefit dinner or your girlfriend thinks it'd be sweet if you helped at the animal shelter, you're stuck helping. There's no use fighting it, so make the best out of the experience and do it happily. Who knows, maybe it's a test for a reward (and I'm not talking about a kiss).

9. You care about the environment and your community. With everyone "going green," you just might want to do your part to neutralize gas emissions by raking or collecting recyclables. There are many jobs in a community that depend on volunteer work for completion, and when you help your community, your community is better prepared to help you.

8. It counts for time served. You know you have a great propensity to get in trouble, so plan ahead for that community service by acting now. Judges are inclined to lessen or eliminate punishment to individuals who've helped in the past. If nothing else, you may already have a connection to complete your probation requirement.

7. Volunteering circumvents commitments. If you have a family commitment or your neighbor wants you to come to her Tupperware party, volunteering is a good excuse to ditch. Animal shelters are always willing to take volunteers (so they're always open for an excuse). Besides, sitting in while a bunch of ladies talk about kitchen sets and freezer burn is much more painful than washing small, cuddly puppies.

6. Press recognition. Newspapers and other media frequently cover large events of service. Photo opportunities are perfect for community credibility (and quite a decent opener to a conversation). If you're looking for some recognition, volunteering is a great way to get your name, picture, and maybe even a live interview on TV for everyone to see.

5. You can get free stuff! Serving at a dinner often brings free food, and it's always deliciously costless. With some volunteer work, organizers feel inclined to send thank you notes with money or gift cards included as an expression of gratitude. Also, with electronics recycling, you wouldn't believe what people throw away (printers that run out of toner, stereos, cameras; it's too good to make up)!

4. Self-fulfillment. Deep down inside, everyone has a need to interact with human beings and solve problems. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, achievement is part of the esteem category (and you'll never have self-actualization if you don't complete esteem). So swallow your pride, put on an apron, and don a ladle; I promise you'll start feeling better the moment you walk out of here.

3. Façade of goodness. People always look at volunteers as good people. If you volunteer, you are more likely to be given money, a hand, or even free tickets to the Bahamas. As always, this will lead to an increase in popularity (and that's always a good thing).

2. Job opportunities. Helping certain organizations or people can provide a foot in the door of employment for gracious go-getters. Not only that but employers appreciate employees that put in extra time and are more than happy to award bonuses to overactive helpers. And if you want to extend your résumé and gain headway over other applicants, volunteerism is an easy way to add color to your pages.

1. Chicks. It's that easy. Girls love a guy that will donate time to pet puppies or lend a hand at a soup kitchen (not to mention there are lots of lovely ladies already volunteering). If you're a single guy (or girl), volunteering is a great way to hook up and help yourself while you help others.

Strange History: The Katzenklavier (the cat organ)

Andrew J. Wilt

In the sixteenth century cat's started being used in music. I don't mean in opera as props, but as musical instruments. Let's just say the Katzenklavier is far from the Disney classic *The Aristocats*.

How the instrument worked is the cat's tail would be attached to a mechanism which corresponded to a key on the organ. Pressing a key on the organ would signal pointed barbs that would hit the end of a cats tail causing the cat to yowl. Legend has it that musicians would arrange cats in order of the animals pitch in scream, and place them in a black box.

If you think that's strange, let's knock it up a notch. In 1549 when Philip II was visiting his father in Brussels, part of the festivities during his visit was a chariot with a bear playing the Cat Organ.

Gotta love the renaissance.

The Katzenklavier was popular, but short lived—only lasting for about three hundred years. Maybe the hype faded, or maybe PETA was born: all we can hope now is that some Scandinavian metal band will bring the fad back. Any takers?

For further information about this device you can check out the book where I got my information from entitled The Tiger in the House: A Cultural History of the Cat *by Carl VanVechten. Another bit of info: Monty Python did a parody of the musical instrument called "Mouse Organ."*

Talking Politics With James

James Gallagher

Political parties are at each other's throats nowadays. Between CNN and Fox News, it's surprising that more arguments have not come to blows amongst the public and indeed some have. The question we need to ask is 'Why such polarization?' Have politics really come down to the red corner versus the blue corner? The problem is that the polarization dramatized in the media is exaggerated to the point where fights seem inevitable. The differences between the major media outlets are seemingly endless. We are lead to believe that the two sides represented will never agree with each other. However, the differences in the party platforms may surprise you.

To illustrate the similarities between the different sides, I have compiled a small list, which is in no way comprehensive or all-inclusive, to compare the two in a non-partisan way. See if you can name the candidate whose platform these direct quotes came from, the choices are Obama and McCain. Consider this a little experiment for those of you who are either adamant on where you stand, don't know, or think you know. You may be surprised. Good luck!

1. "The only way to truly secure the borders and have an orderly immigration system that honors our traditions as both a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants is through comprehensive reform grounded in the principles of responsibility and accountability."
2. "...supports federally-funded stem cell research on existing lines of stem cells."
3. "...has pledged to end U.S. reliance on foreign oil and says America must modernize the way it generates and employs energy ...would support "declaration of independence" from foreign oil suppliers and rely on technological innovations to achieve that goal.
4. "By making bold and wise investments in healthcare, energy and education, and restoring fiscal accountability to government spending, we will cut costs for American families and businesses, create good jobs that can't be shipped overseas..."

These quotes are not meant to sway your particular political view one way or another. They are simply a way to shed light on what few people realize. The differences in the political parties are heavily outweighed by the similarities. The rhetoric between left versus right is a game. Elections have turned into a contest where there are two enemies [candidates] that battle [campaign] for a title [whatever office they are running for] in order to further their agenda. The exacerbated differences make it easier to dehumanize an entire group of people. Liberals hating conservatives and vice-versa are common to hear, even among the supposedly higher-educated college population. But the truth is, all politicians are human, and all are trying to win a seat.

The fact of the matter is, we get stuck on who voted for whom and why. We forget the important things, such as the fact that we are all Americans and we are all looking

for ways to solve America's problems, collectively. The only way we are going to solve these problems is to work together to find solutions. Fighting never accomplishes much. Extreme partisanship is not conducive to productivity. Perhaps the Democrats have different ways of solving some of America's problems than the Republicans, but they need to learn to work together and compromise if there is going to be any hope of accomplishment. As soon as one party has a majority, they usually repeal what the opposing party had passed, and the cycle continues. Meanwhile, the people that put them in office are suffering because little progress has been made. Both parties compromising with the opposing party, to attain a good for the people, is better than getting things done precisely their way. Most politicians will not pursue this idea because humans are greedy by nature and that greed makes them want to stay in office as long as possible, regardless of how much is actually accomplished. What we really should be striving for is accountability, not who wins what seat. What matters is what is getting accomplished. If we are fighting over whom to vote for, and not paying attention to what actually gets done, then it doesn't matter who wins the seat because we all lose.

Answers on page 21

God, My Lackluster Significant Other

By Michael Pratt

This is an opinion piece.
Disclaimer: *The opinions expressed here are the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Cohesion.*

Much to your dismay, the Latin phrase cognito ergo sum or I think therefore I am, does not entail I think therefore I think intelligently. Observe: once upon a time (which closely resembles now), patriarchy was the in-shit. If your dick was large enough (flaccid or erect, we don't discriminate) to be recognized as a dick, your status on the hierarchical blood filled totem pole superseded that of a women's. While I know Hilary Clinton would get her panties in a bunch and then insert them into the mouths of the architects of such a grossly sexist paradigm; the Democratic party did not exist when patriarchy was conceived. But, other human beings did. A few in particular used fear to maintain the health of the paradigm. They gave fear the title of monotheism. Monotheism was ruled by an omnibenevolent, omnipotent, omniscient (O to the 3rd) being. Turns out, O to the 3rd has many hedonistic (human like) tendencies. He liked to, like us, lie and kill and oppress and make up arbitrary rules for things. For example, O to the 3rd told Adam, the first man on Earth, to tell the first women on Earth, Eve, that she would die if she touched the fruit of knowledge. She touched it, and didn't die. O3 loves to punk out his people. This other time, some six thousand years ago (when the world was created) there was a man named Abram, who lived in the great trading city of Ur. Ur's people worshipped lots of gods, for

they were polytheistic. Then, O3 told Abram that he wasn't allowed to hang out with his other deities anymore. So, Abram obeyed. This one time, my girlfriend told me I wasn't allowed hang out with my friends anymore. I broke up with her. She has jealousy issues. O3 does too. Also, O to the 3rd has a list of ten things you can't do. Provided below is the National Institution of Intellectuals Internationally's modern translation. Observe:

1. O3 wants you for himself.
2. No statues (including decorative gnomes and James Dean posters).
3. Don't be chilling in your yard or doing psychedelics in the presence of said gnomes and/or posters...the consequences could parallel that of Mafia fashion. Dads, lock up yo girls (and boys).
4. Don't insult O3 by misusing his name, he's sensitive.
5. Sundays are special (except when the Packers play early).
6. Monday through Saturday you gotta keep busy.
7. But remember, Sundays are special—even for alien residents.
8. For O3, in spite of his omnipotence, rested on the seventh day, after he conceived the world.
9. Don't steal your parents alcohol.
10. No poppin' caps in asses (or any appendage/body part that will result in death).
11. Don't sleep with your brother's wife (unless he's dating Elizabeth Hurley).
12. Do not steal rubbers from Walmart, they're people too.
13. Don't tell your neighbor's wife that you saw her husband bangin' Mrs. Wellendowed from down the street when you know that he did not.
14. Don't be wishing you had your neighbor's lawn equipment and/or wife/husband, go to the next neighborhood and do your wishing politely, and privately.
15. That's not ten

New and Noteworthy Comics for March/April 2011

Mike Rapin

Month after month, the big publishers in the industry release their solicitations for upcoming comics with synopses, cover art and all sorts of fun stuff. As I've perused through the solicits, I've come across a few comics I have deemed, "You should really check these out."

Starting in March, Marvel Comics (publisher of The Amazing Spider-Man, X-Men, Captain America, etc.) is pulling out all of the stops and killing Spider-Man. Well, they're "killing" an alternate version of Spider-Man in what their "Ultimate Universe." Issue #156 of Ultimate Comics Spider-Man is titled "The Death Of Spider-Man, Chapter One" and after promoting this story arch for almost three months, the "most important story in Ultimate Spider-Man history" will be published.

Penned by one of the biggest names in comics, Brian Michael Bendis, and drawn by the legendary, and original artist of the series, Mark Bagley, this is sure to be one of the

greater moments in Ultimate Comics Spiderman's run.

On the other side of the fence, lies DC Comics, home of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman and Jimmy Olsen. Who is Jimmy Olsen, you ask? Why, he's Clark Kent's favorite photographer at the Daily Planet! This one-shot comic, to be published on March 30, contains the four back-up stories originally featured in Action Comics as well as an additional 30 pages of story.

Written by Nick Spencer with art by RB Silvia and DYM, Jimmy Olsen's life as your average photographer takes a turn for the crazy as he tries to earn his ex girlfriend, Chloe Sullivan, back. This is a surefire way to get a peak into the DC Universe from a non-superhero perspective with all of the insanity of a superhero comic in the story.

And somewhere in-between the DC and Marvel fence lies Image Comics--an independent publishing company keeping comics like The Walking Dead, Spawn, and Savage Dragon. For March their "you should check this out" comic is a one-shot titled The Kill Corps. With writer Jim Krueger at the help and the utterly amazing Ben Templesmith and mind-blowing Dennis Calero working together on the art this comic can't not be the best thing you read in March.

While being a story about mercenaries becoming ultimate destruction machines thanks to an evil deity, the comic will also be released in a 48-page special edition that will include a download code for the band The Kill Corps four-track EP. The issue will be available March 6 for $2.99 with a one-track download or $5.99 for the special edition.

And then there's April.

The big comic that's coming out in April for DC is Batwoman #1. A seemingly unknown character in the Batman-verse, the issue will focus on the character Kate Kane aka Batwoman in her own series with a five-part story arc titled "Hydrology."

The popularity of Batwoman rose after an incredible story arc in the infamous Detective Comics starting at issue #854 and has since risen to become a fan favorite and DC's highest profile gay superhero. Batwoman #1 will be written by J.H. Williams III and W. Haden Blackman with art by J.H. Williams III and will be released on April 6.

Marvel is beginning something humungous in April and it's called Fear Itself. Fear Itself will be a monstrous cross-over event that is supposed to rival their previous cross-over event Civil War. The story will be scattered across nearly all premiere titles at Marvel but in the main series, starting with Fear Itself #1, the premise is a mysterious finding by old Captain America arch-enemy Red Skull brings him back to life and the only thing he has to fear is fear itself.

With the subtitle, "Do you fear... tomorrow?" writer Matt Fraction takes a stab at disrupting the entire Marvel universe in Fear Itself #1, the main story line of the cross-over event aided by Artist Stuart Immonen who has worked his way up the ranks of various Marvel comics in the past few years. This is a promising beginning, but if Marvel goes the route of their last few cross-over events (Secret Invasion, Siege) they may flop big time.

Keep your eyes peeled for these comics and make sure to find a local comic shop (Tardy's Collectors Corner or Whitecap Comics!) to pick at least one of these issues up!

New Student Organization of The Month: Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC)

Brian Tucker, President of SCCC

Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC) is a student organization dedicated not only to securing the right of adult law abiding students and faculty who wish to have the ability to defend themselves on campus, but also to educating the student population on campus about safety and self-defense. We are an organization whose goal is found not only under the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution but also under Michigan's very own Constitution, specifically in Article 1 Section 6 "Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state."

We are meant as citizens of this country to have the ability of self-defense. Within the great state of Michigan we find ourselves given that right in many of the places most commonly visited, such as grocery stores, banks, malls, and many other places. However, we are deprived of a few places, deemed "Pistol Free Zones", which arbitrarily disarms the law abiding citizen leaving only a handful of police officers and those who wish to disregard the law entirely. As the law is written, people who possess a concealed carry license are unable to carry concealed into a campus classroom or dormitory, and due to Grand Valleys policy these law abiding citizens can't even store their tool of self-defense in their car while attending class as this may lead to expulsion.

University professors commonly argue that allowing concealed carry on campus would cause a disruption of the learning environment, which is unfounded speculation, as already there are universities and colleges in this nation which allow concealed carry on campus and have had no issues resulting from it.

Others say that the police can deal with the situation, to which I present that at Virginia Tech where 32 students were killed by Cho, once alerted it took the police over 8 minutes to get into the classroom only to find Cho already dead by a self inflicted gunshot wound.

Talking Politics Answer Key:

1. Obama
2. McCain
3. McCain
4. Obama

THIS PAGE IS WHERE YOUR ARTICLE COULD HAVE BEEN.

Have a submission? Send it to *CohesionGV@gmail.com*

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